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Milwaukee County

SCOTT WALKER • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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**WALKER ANNOUNCES ALL-TIME ONE-MONTH PASSENGER RECORD AT
GENERAL MITCHELL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
928,000 Passengers in July Eclipses June Record**

MILWAUKEE (September 10, 2010) – Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker announced today that a single-month record number of passengers traveled through General Mitchell International Airport in July 2010. The airport served 928,497 passengers, an increase of 136,876 (+17.29 percent) over last July's 791,621 passengers. The July total marks 11 straight months of record passenger growth, and eclipses the previous one-month high of 922,984 passengers in June 2010.

In the first seven months of 2010, the airport has served 5,713,942 passengers, an increase of 1.4 million (+31.3 percent) over the same period in 2009.

"There are always a lot of leisure travelers taking to the skies in July, plus some fairly heavy convention and business travel," Walker said. "Convention travelers in particular are delighted to fly to Milwaukee on a low fare ticket and then discover what a dynamic and fun-loving community this is."

Airport Director Barry Bateman said, "With a 17 percent growth rate in July, Mitchell far outpaced the nation's passenger count, which declined by 1 percent. We're seeing a rise in passengers connecting from one flight to another in Milwaukee, in addition to the passengers originating from Wisconsin and northern Illinois taking advantage of average airfares almost \$100 less than O'Hare's."

Market Data: U.S. Department of Transportation data for 1st Quarter 2010 (most recent) show that the average airfare out of Milwaukee dropped lower than the average at 93 other U.S. airports. Mitchell's average fare was \$98 less than O'Hare's, \$78 less than the nation's average and \$17 less than Midway Airport's. Mitchell's average fare represented the largest quarter-over-quarter drop in the nation at -16.6 percent.

Airports Council International reported that during the 1st Quarter 2010, growth at Mitchell was exceeded worldwide only by airports in Istanbul, Turkey and Phuket, Thailand, and that Mitchell was the only U.S. airport among the top 30 fastest growing airports worldwide.

With 56 markets, Mitchell has moved up to 28th among U.S. airports in number of markets served nonstop, according to data recently published by the Brookings Institute. Mitchell's rank in a similar 2004 study was 34th. The new ranking means that more nonstop markets are served out of Milwaukee than out of other Midwestern cities, such as Kansas City; Nashville; Pittsburgh; Indianapolis and Columbus, and out of medium-sized cities elsewhere in the U.S., including Portland, OR; Austin; New Orleans; San Diego; Raleigh/Durham; Albuquerque; San Antonio and Hartford, CT.

General Mitchell International Airport is owned by Milwaukee County and operated by the Department of Transportation & Public Works, Airport Division, under the policy direction of the Milwaukee County Executive and the County Board of Supervisors. The airport is entirely funded by user fees; no property tax dollars are used for the airport's capital improvements or for its day-to-day operation. For more information on Mitchell International, visit www.mitchellairport.com.

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